

# Apps for Enhancing WEA Access

## Your Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Accessibility Toolkit

### WEA MESSAGE ACCESS:

#### Translation Apps

- When a wireless emergency alert (WEA) message is sent to your wireless device, understanding the emergency information provided is critical. Since these messages are in English, it may be necessary to quickly and accurately translate the text for non-English speakers.
- The Google Translate app (free) offers translation for over 70 languages and is available for both iOS and Android users.
- Google Play offers an ASL Translator app.
- The App Store (iOS) offers an ASL Translator app

#### Text-to-Speech

- A text-to-speech function can be necessary for someone who has low vision or is blind.
- While iOS systems come equipped with Voiceover, Android users may require a text-to-speech app that can read a WEA message.
- IVONA Text-to-Speech HQ app (free) uses natural sounding voices for eyes-free access to phone content.

#### Braille Translators

- Text-to-Braille may be preferred for some users with vision loss.
- BrailleBack (free) available on Android, works with supported refreshable Braille displays.

### RESPONDING TO WEA MESSAGES:

#### Maps

- WEA messages may direct you to evacuate. Having a reliable map app can be vital.
- The Google Maps App (free), available for both iOS and Android, provides GPS navigation for individuals on foot, in the car or public transit.
- According to Google, this app works with screen readers, such as Walky Talky and TalkBack.

#### News

- WEA messages often direct you to seek additional information through your local news. Many news stations offer breaking news text alerts and apps.

#### Twitter

- With the growing use of social media during emergencies, it can be very helpful to follow your local emergency management office and local news for live updates.
- Voice Brief (iTunes) will read your Twitter feed aloud for you.
- Plume for Android users (free in Google Play) is said to be accessible for blind and low vision users.

#### Disaster Assistance

- The First Aid by American Red Cross app (free) has been made compatible with the Voiceover function in iOS wireless devices. It offers step-by-step guidance through emergencies and safety information for natural disasters.
- The FEMA App (free) has safety tips, emergency meeting location information, and a map with open shelters.

Below are links to more information for each app discussed:

### **Google Translate**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.translate&hl=en>

(iTunes) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/google-translate/id414706506?mt=8>

### **ASL Translator**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.asltranslator&hl=en>

(iTunes) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/asl-translator/id421784745?mt=8>

### **IVONA**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ivona.tts&hl=en>

### **Text-to-Braille**

(Google Play)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pyxismobile.TextToBraille.ui.activity&hl=en>

### **BrailleBack**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.googlecode.eyesfree.brailleback>

### **Google Maps**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.maps&hl=en>

(iTunes) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/google-maps/id585027354?mt=8>

### **Tweetlist Pro**

(iTunes) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tweetlist-for-twitter/id426026150?mt=8>

### **Voice Brief**

(iTunes) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/voice-brief-text-to-speech/id423322440?mt=8>

### **Plume**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.levelup.touiteur>

### **First Aid by Red Cross**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cube.arc.fa&hl=en>

(iTunes) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/first-aid-by-american-red/id529160691?mt=8>

### **FEMA App**

(Google Play) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.fema.mobile.android&hl=en>

(iTunes) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fema/id474807486?mt=8>

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